

State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Rural Schools, Libraries, and Communities

**Tuesday, April 27, 2016
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
*Suring High School-Library
411 Algoma Street
Suring, WI 54174-9565***

Minutes

8:30 a.m. Registration Set-up/Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff opened the meeting and introduces the district administrator.

Kelly Casper, District Administrator, Suring School District
Superintendent Casper welcomed the group to the Suring community and introduced school staff and guests,

Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent

Some of the district's highlights this year are:

Suring Public School District:

Student athletes have had exceptional sports seasons with regional championships earned by the volleyball team and both girls and boys basketball.

One of the many benefits to a 4K-12 school is a school wide celebration when amazing things happen, as well as all school pep assemblies as our teams prepare to compete.

Students here can experience dual enrollment courses through St. Norbert's College and NWTC. They also have Advanced Placement courses and offer classes via Triton distance learning.

Technology education students operate a business where they create woodworking product prototypes to sell within the community. Agriculture students create a Haunted Forest community event and upperclassmen experience a reality day facilitated by teachers and involving community members.

Suring hosts both literacy and math nights, bringing students and parents in for nights of fun, food, engaging educational activities and prizes.

The high school recently received an award for improvement of graduation rates. This was achieved through the hard work and dedication of our secondary staff as they pushed a strong valuing of education on the high school students.

Implementation of age appropriate PBIS type incentives helped make Suring High School a positive place where students wanted to not only be, but raise personal achievement.

They are in the second year of an after school program made possible through a grant. The program provides both social and academic support for student's grades kindergarten through eighth grade, with the bulk of students served being elementary age. This program not only provides enrichment activities, but also a safe place for children to be while their parents are working.

Last year, the community invested in education by passing a \$700,000 referendum. The money is being used to pay district operational and maintenance costs, but also for the acquisition and installation of technology infrastructure and equipment in order to create a learning environment that will produce 21st Century Learners.

It is obvious how closely the community and school work together to make Suring a great place to be.

Additional guests were recognized:

- Welcome all the school district staff and community members who are present.

- Welcome advisory council members.

Dr Evers stated:

- We have an active agenda today and I'm looking forward to the discussions surrounding rural schools and libraries, mental health in rural schools, and broadband access.
- This council has been an important resource for me. As we go about our work at the department and put together my next biennial budget proposal, the input I receive from you is important.

9:15 a.m. Rural Schools and Library Connections:

Kurt Kiefer, Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction

Kurt presented and facilitated a discussion

Other DPI staff called in:

Kurt Kiefer Kurt.kiefer@dpi.wi.gov

Martha Berninger martha.berninger@dpi.wi.gov

Ryan Claringbole ryan.claringbole@dpi.wi.gov

John DeBacher john.debacher@dpi.wi.gov

Ben Miller benjamin.miller@dpi.wi.gov

10:30 a.m. Break

10:40 a.m. Mental Health in Rural Schools:

Steve Fernan, Assistant Director, Student Services/Prevention and Wellness Team

Steve presented by calling in and Kurt running his powerpoint presentation.

Possible questions for discussion:

- How have or how can rural schools collaborate with their County Community Service Teams (CSTs), or their private mental health providers, to improve the access to and quality of mental health services to students?
- Are there resources for transportation available to families living in rural Wisconsin, to be able to access Mental Health Services

within their Counties? If not, how or should those services be provided at or through schools?

- What barriers or stigmas exist around mental health issues for rural families and communities that prevent students and their families from seeking out needed services? How might we help challenge those and help families and students get the mental health services that are needed?

12:00 p.m. Lunch/ Showcase: Suring High School (Band & Chorus presentation)

Band Director – Kaci Hoverson

Choral Director – Micki Carlson

12:30 p.m. Suring: Presentation and Tour

The tour will be of the high school:

The FFA chapter was hosting their Food for America Program outside

1:00 p.m. Broadband in Rural Schools and Libraries

Kurt Kiefer, Assistant State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction

Other DPI staff called in:

Bill Herman bill.berman@dpi.wi.gov

Ryan Claringbole ryan.claringbole@dpi.wi.gov

2:00 p.m. Adjourn

Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction

Thank you to Kelly and Suring for their work here today.

Thanks to the district administrators from the area

Suggestions for advisory council agenda items; please forward to Jeff Hicken.